

Communication with each other and with our constituents is elemental to Senate business and Hazel's group is an essential communication hub here. They are our partners in governance and under Hazel's leadership have performed admirably. We thank Hazel for her leadership and wish her a healthy and happy retirement.

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I want to join the majority leader and associate myself with his remarks regarding the contributions of Hazel Getty to the operation of the U.S. Senate. Hazel has overseen a remarkable advance in the technological capabilities of the Sergeant at Arms' Printing, Graphics and Direct Mail branch. We will all miss Hazel's excellent leadership and gentle nature. We wish her all the best in this next chapter of her life.

#### APPLAUDING EDMONSON COUNTY, KENTUCKY

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I rise today to applaud the patriotism and service of the residents of Edmonson County in my home State of Kentucky. Earlier this week, the local Bowling Green, KY, newspaper, the Daily News, published an article entitled "Edmonson Leads U.S. in Army Recruitment." Edmonson County, located in the central part of the State, has the highest percentage of Army recruits in the country—quite an accomplishment, and a wonderful symbol of patriotism and sense of service that is evident not just in Edmonson County, but throughout the Commonwealth. According to the Army, Edmonson County "produced the most enlistments for the Regular Army, Non-Prior Service" as compared to the total national population of 15-24 year olds.

Kentucky has a proud military heritage. The Bluegrass State is home to widely recognized military installations such as Fort Knox and Fort Campbell. Our Guard and Reserve units continue to proudly serve on the front lines of the global war on terror. The people of Edmonson County are carrying on Kentucky's longstanding history of service and are proving their dedication and support as the United States continues to fight the terrorism. I am proud to represent such loyal and selfless citizens.

Mr. President, I ask that the entire Senate join me in expressing great admiration and gratitude to the people of Edmonson County, KY, for their patriotism and service. I ask unanimous consent that the full article from the Daily News be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

[From the Bowling Green Daily News, July 29, 2007]

#### EDMONSON LEADS U.S. IN ARMY RECRUITMENT (By Ameerah Cetawayo)

Edmonson County, the home of nationally known Mammoth Cave National Park, made headlines recently for another reason—having the highest percentage of Army recruits in the country.

For every 1,000 young people in the county, about 11 of them decided to join the military in 2006.

For a county of about 12,000 people, the statistics magnify patriotic values, as well as the notion that more people from Edmonson County are leaving for Bowling Green and surrounding areas, according to leaders in the educational and business community.

According to military data analyzed by the National Priorities Project, a nonprofit research organization, Kentucky ranked 27th in the nation for the percentage of Army recruits.

The Army recruited 990 people from the commonwealth last year, about a 3 percent increase from 2005, according to NPP.

Earlier this month, the U.S. Department of Defense said the Army failed to meet its goal of 8,400 recruits for June by about 16 percent, with only 7,031 nationwide joining.

Brian Alexander, principal of Edmonson County High School, said having options for college is one explanation for why Edmonson County ranked high. Alexander said the latest graduating class of a little over 100 earned \$250,000 in scholarships.

"Our kids are looking for opportunities. Right now, the military offers substantial financial opportunity to allow young men and women to pursue post-secondary careers," Alexander said, adding that joining the military also gives young people the opportunity to see different parts of the world.

Take a look at Edmonson County's courthouse in Brownsville and it's easy to see that military organizations are very active in the area, according to Edmonson County Schools Superintendent Patrick Waddell.

"One of the biggest reasons we probably have ranked high in that area is we're a very patriotic county," he said. "The different services of the military are very active in the county. They do a lot of programs that are extracurricular activities in the middle school and high school."

Waddell also said the percentage who go to college or a technical or trade school would be about the same as other districts.

"Being proud of your community and proud of your county and being proud of America, that's a very positive attribute of Edmonson County," Waddell said.

Sarah Childress, executive director of the Edmonson County Chamber of Commerce, said small-town values are alive and well in Edmonson County.

"I'm not saying things are different here, but it may have something to do with the way young people have been raised, to have that instilled in them at a young age, to want to serve their country," Childress said.

The appearance of a lesser amount of opportunities in Edmonson County may be a small factor also, she said.

"Anyone can go to Bowling Green, Louisville and Nashville and find a good job and commute. They can move if they want," Childress said. "We don't have a lot of industry here."

The biggest employer in Edmonson County is the board of education, followed by the county's highway department and local banks, Childress said.

"There is something out there for everybody, and Bowling Green is growing so much and moving even closer to southern Edmonson County," he said. "There is so much industry going on in Bowling Green there is plenty out there for everybody."

Other recruiting and retention statistics for the active and reserve components last month showed:

The Navy finished with 3,999 recruits. Its goal was 3,924. The Marine Corps exceeded its goal by recruiting 4,113 new Marines; its goal was 3,742. The Air Force met its goal of 2,233 recruits.

Army, Navy, Marine Corps, and Air Force met or exceeded overall active duty retention missions.

Five of the six reserve components met or exceeded their Reserve forces recruiting goals in June. The Air National Guard was the only reserve component to miss its goal, finishing at 75 percent with 779 of its goal of 1,036. The Army National Guard recruited 5,342 soldiers surpassing its goal of 5,338. The Army Reserve and Navy Reserve finished at 108 percent of their goals with 5,255 and 1,013 recruits, respectively.

The Marine Corps Reserve recruited 1,078 Marines, surpassing its goal of 986 at 109 percent. The Air Force Reserve met its goal of 597 recruits.

Reserve forces retention numbers show Army National Guard retention was 107 percent of the cumulative goal of 26,405, and Air National Guard retention was 98 percent of its cumulative goal of 8,430. Both the Army and Air Guard are currently at 101 percent and 99 percent of their end strength, respectively. Losses in all reserve components for May are well within acceptable limits, according to the DOD.—Source: U.S. Department of Defense

#### SMALL BUSINESS CHILDREN'S HEALTH EDUCATION ACT

Mr. REID. Mr. President, the 17th century English writer, Izaak Walton, said—

Look to your health; and if you have it, praise God, and value it next to a good conscience; for health is . . . a blessing that money can't buy.

Today in America, good health is not free. And for many working people, the cost and accessibility of quality health care has become prohibitive.

A decade ago, the Congress and President Clinton made a major downpayment on improving our health care delivery system.

Their new approach was aimed at a gap between children of very low-income families who were covered under Medicaid and children of middle- and upper-income families who could fortunately afford private insurance, usually through their employers.

But between the two, millions of children whose families neither qualify for Medicaid nor can afford private insurance are uninsured.

So in 1997, the Congress passed the Children's Health Insurance Program to fill that void.

When President Clinton signed that legislation into law, he said—

[The program] strengthens our families by extending health insurance coverage to up to 5 million children. By investing \$24 billion, we will be able to provide quality medical care for these children—everything from regular check-ups to major surgery.

I want every child in America to grow up healthy and strong, and this investment takes a major step toward that goal.

Today, 10 years later, the Children's Health Insurance Program has been a smashing success by any measure.

With this innovative program, the number of uninsured children of working families has dropped by almost 35 percent.

Today, 6.6 million children have insurance thanks to this outstanding program.